INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

32-W SECRET Action Control: 12691 Rec'd: EUR APŘIL 20. FROM: LONDON Info TO: Secretary of State 001 RMR 5465. APRIL 20. SS W G PRIORITY C SENT DEPARTMENT 5465, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 384, DEPTEL 9217 ; REFERENCE: PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO AND THURSTON METAIN CLASSIFICA SELWYN LLOYD WAS MY WEEK-END GUEST AND HIGH-FLIGHTS INTO BERLIN MOST PROMINENT SUBJECT DISCUSSED. THE BEGAN BY EXPRESSING IRRITATION THAT HE HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF SOWING DISCORD BETWEEN USG AND HMG ON THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE HIS ONE ABIDING DETERMINATION WAS TO SMOOTH OVER DISAGREEMENTS OF THIS SORT, WHENEVER THEY AROSE. LLOYD ADDED THAT WHEN IN WASHINGTON HE AND HERTER HAD AGREED THAT HYGH-FLIGHTS COULD PROVOKE SOVIETS REACTION AND SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH DISCRETION. HERTER HAD TOLD LLOYD THAT HE HAD SECURED POSTPONEMENT OF SECOND HIGH-FLIGHT AND LLOYD HAD SO TOLD MEMBERS OF HIS FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF. LLOYD STATED FURTHER THAT FOREIGN OFFICE PRESS BRIEFING ON THIS SUBJECT (EMBTEL 5370) MAY HAVE CONSTRUED RECURRENCE OF HIGH-FLIGHTS AS INDICATING DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE DEPT. AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF USG, OR INDEED JOURNALISTS PRESENT MAY HAVE INVENTED THE STORY OUT OF WHOLE-CLOTH. LLOYD ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS OPINION THE UNFORTUNATE SUGGESTION THAT HMG OPPOSED AMERICAN ACTION OVER HIGH-FLIGHTS AND BELIEVED STATE DEPT. HAD BEEN OVER-RULED BY PENTAGON ON THIS MATTER HAD BEEN PLANTED IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN IN LONDON COMMENT: DESPITE THIS STATEMENT, I JUDGE FROM THE PROTRACTED WAY IN WHICH LLOYD RUMINATED OVER THIS SUBJECT THAT HE FELT SOMEWHAT ON DEFENSIVE END COMMENT. LLOYD STATED 1 UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

PERMANENT

APPEALS REVIEW PANEL

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LLOYD STATED THAT IN REPLYING TO HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTIONS
HE WOULD STATE THAT USG AND HMG WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT
THAT HIGH-FLIGHTS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH DISCRETION.
I SUGGESTED SOMEWHAT STRONGER WORDING INDICATING THAT THE
HIGH-FLIGHTS IN FACT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED DISCREETLY BUT
ELICITED NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS SINCE SUBJECT OF HIGH-FLIGHTS
IS FAR DOWN LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR REPLY DURING QUESTION
PERIOD APRIL 22, THIS TOPIC MAY NOT BE REACHED AND MAYP
HAVE FADED SOMEWHAT FROM PUBLIC MIND ON NEXT OCCASION
FOREIGN SECRETARY ANSWERS QUESTIONS, APRIL 27.

MEANWHILE PARTIAL CHANGE HAS OCCURED OVER WEEK-END IN TREATMENT OF HIGH-FLIGHTS BY SOME NEWSPAPERS AND IS NOT LIKELY THAT THIS CHANGE IS ENTIRELY SPONTANEOUS. FOR EXAMPLE, DAILY TELEGRAPH, AFTER DISCUSSING HIGH-FLIGHTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, STATED APRIL 17 THAT "IT IS POSSIBLE....TO PUT UP GOOD ARGUMENTS (FOR AND AGAINST HIGH-FLIGHTS). IT SEEMS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, WHETHER BRITISH WELL ADVISED TO PRESS THEIR VIEW TO POINT OF MAKING TT SERIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IMPRESSION THIS GIVES TO WORLD IS ONE OF BRITAIN UNWILLING TO TAKE ANY RISKS IN FACE OF SOVIET THREATS. THIS BELIEF.... CARRIES FAR MORE DANGERS TO WESTERN UNITY THAN ANY INCIDENT LIKELY TO ARISE (FROM HIGH-FLIGHTS)."

SUNDAY OBSERVER WHICH HAD STRONGLY CRITICIZED INFLUENCE OF PENTAGON ON US FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS STATED SOMEWHAT PIOUSLY APRIL 19TH THAT "IT IS DOUBTFUL IF SECTION OF BRITISH PRESS HAS DONE MUCH SERVICE TO WESTERN ALLIANCE BY SHOWING SUCH EXCESSIVE ALARM OVER AMERICAN' DECISION TO FLY OCCASIONAL TRANSPORT PLANE ABOVE 10,000 FEET OVER AIR CORRIDOR TO BERLIN."

BBC NEWS BROADCAST AND SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS GAVE HEAVY
WEEK-END COVERAGE TO STATE DEPARTMENT'S CLAIM THAT BRITISH
PRESS SHOWING "TIMIDITY." SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY THIS
CHARGE HAS

SECRET.

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CHARGE HAS PROVOKED SO FAR NO ANGRY EDITORIAL REACTION EXCEPT IN DAILY MAIL. (FOR FULL PRESS SUMMARY SEE EMBTEL 51/60).

WHITNEY

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